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On: FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO For Information Contact: Doug Bond Charles Drain

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Austin . . . February egg production in Texas totaled 373 million eggs, up 2 percent from February 2005, but down 11 percent from January 2006, according to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office.

The number of layers during February averaged 18.7 million, up 3 percent from last year and up 1 percent from January 2006. Egg production per 100 layers averaged 2,000 eggs, down slightly from last year but down 12 percent from last month.

Texas hatchery production of broiler-type chicks totaled 51.0 million, up 2 percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 6.97 billion eggs during February 2006, up 1 percent from a year ago. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs, 927 million broiler-type hatching eggs and 62 million egg-type hatching eggs.

Nationally, the total number of layers averaged 350 million during February 2006, up slightly from a year ago. Production per 100 layers was 1,995 eggs, up slightly from February 2005.

The U.S. monthly hatch of egg-type chicks totaled 33.7 million, down 1 percent from February 2005. The hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 733 million, was up slightly from February of last year.

The leading U.S. breeders placed 7.59 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2006, up 4 percent from February 2005.